

Pritchard back in the Sutton squad

FORMER Wycombe Wanderers favourite Larry Pritchard, who has missed four matches this season because of a cartilage operation, is back in the Sutton squad at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday) for their Rothmans Isthmian League encounter against the Blues.

Pritchard has been back in training recently and rejoins a Sutton side with exactly the same record as Wycombe's — three wins from four games. United, who are managed by another ex-Wycombe player Ted Powell, have beaten Hayes 3-2 and Clapton 1-0 at home and Leytonstone 5-0 away.

Their only defeat was at home to Oxford City. However, they were greatly handicapped by the loss of goalkeeper John Overton, who was injured after only half an hour of the game. A hotly disputed penalty gave Oxford the verdict.

That defeat was clearly forgotten on Tuesday though, when Sutton visited Leytonstone and thrashed the Essex club to the tune of 5-0. Graham Dennis scored a hat-trick.

Sutton have made two useful signings this season, both from the Horsham club. Barry Steer and Colin Newstead have established themselves as regular first teamers in place of Alan Ives, who has returned to his former club Tooting and Alan Gillett, now with Carshalton.

Rick Collier comes in to replace the injured Overton tomorrow and the squad also includes former Chelsea player

Mike Sorenson. The Sutton squad is: Collier, Cross, Sorenson, Rains, Preston, Bailey, Newstead, McDonald, Kidd, Dennis, Steer, Kember, Tayton and Pritchard.

Wanderers are likely to field the team that won 1-0 at Hayes on Tuesday, although they must be hoping for some improvement up front. They are unlikely to be given as many chances against Sutton and the front runners will not find it easy to by-pass United's ginger haired centre half Mick Preston, who was the regular England amateur number five.